

Philip F. Mangano Executive Director

October 16, 2007

Michael DeVos
Executive Director
Michigan State Housing Development Authority
735 E. Michigan Ave
P.O. Box 30044
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Mr. DeVos:

Congratulations on the continued progress that the State of Michigan is demonstrating in its Campaign to End Homelessness. The leadership of your state government is providing others with an example of political will and innovation in policy, investment, and results on behalf of our poorest neighbors.

It was a privilege to be with you for Michigan's second statewide summit and to learn more about the implementation of the sixty 10-Year Plans unveiled last year for all the jurisdictions in the state. By creating a standard of expectation in Michigan that links jurisdictional partnership and planning to the investment of public resources, Michigan is illustrating for others a comprehensive strategy for results in ending homelessness.

I was especially pleased to learn that the Michigan State Housing Development Authority has proposed to target its available mainstream housing resources even further by creating a set-aside in its tax credit program with a goal to produce more targeted housing for persons who are homeless. The use of mainstream subsidy and production resources is a key tool in creating broader partnerships to meet the housing needs of this population. From the earliest days of this Administration's commitment to end chronic homelessness, the targeting of mainstream resources has been a fundamental strategy.

I know from my own experience in Massachusetts - including in fostering successful initiatives to achieve set - asides of 25% in all state housing resources for persons below 30% AMI - that such efforts make a difference. Current developers targeting extremely low income individuals – including persons who are homeless – can achieve greater access to resources and also create new development partnerships. This is an important role for government to play in achieving housing opportunity for extremely low income individuals and families.

Thank you for your continued commitment to end homelessness.

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Philip F. Mangano Executive Director

Mary Levine, MSHDA